

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4880

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK THAILAND

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ MASS, CB

SUBJECT: INSPECTIONS OF MAP CAMBODIA

REFS: A. SECDEF 7719/061842Z FEB 74 (NOTAL)

B. SECSTATE 016830/252001Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

1. IN REFTTEL B IGA RENEWS REQUEST FOR HEADSPACE FOR TWO INSPECTORS TO ARRIVE ON OR ABOUT 25 FEBRUARY; EARLIER MESSAGES INDICATE THEIR POINT OF FOCUS WOULD BE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF AMMUNITION SUPPLIED UNDER MAP CAMBODIA. REFTTEL A ASKS FOR HEADSPACE FOR FIVE DOD AUDITORS FOR A 60-DAY PERIOD BEGINNING 15 APRIL; THEIR PURPOSE WOULD BE A FULL AUDIT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO CAMBODIA.

2. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THESE TWO PROPOSALS OVERLAP AND SHOULD BE COORDINATED. I BELIEVE ALSO THAT IT WOULD BE AGAINST U.S. INTEREST TO DEVOTE AT ANY POINT DURING THIS DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN THE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT BY MEDTC AND BY FANK PERSONNEL AND THE DIVERSION OF HEADSPACE REQUIRED TO PERFORM THE SORT OF IN DEPTH AUDIT ENVISAGED BY IGA AND THE OASD(C) AUDITORS. THE KHMER
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REPUBLIC IS FIGHTING FOR ITS LIFE, AND OUR POLICY IS TO DO EVERYTHING CONSISTENT WITH THE LAW TO HELP IT SURVIVE.

3. THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE PROPOSED AUDITS ARE

UNNECESSARY OR UNDESIRABLE. ON THE CONTRARY, WITH SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN MAP EXPENDITURE, NOTABLY ON AMMUNITION, THESE REVIEWS CAN SERVE AN IMPORTANT MANAGEMENT FUNCTION.

4. IN PLANNING THE AUDITS WE SHOULD TAKE THESE FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT:

(A) OUTGOING CHMEDTC MAJGEN CLELAND IS RELIEVED BY BRIGGEN PALMER ON 21 FEBRUARY; WE SHOULD LEAVE THE INCOMING CHIEF AT LEAST A MONTH TO GET RUN INTO THE JOB SO THAT HE MAY BE ABLE TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO AUDIT REQUESTS;

(B) TWO ESSENTIAL CONFERENCES WILL OCCUPY THE TIME OF MEDTC AMMUNITION OFFICERS AND PROGRAMMERS. THE AMMUNITION CONFERENCE WILL BE AT CINCPAC 11 - 13 MARCH, AND THE CINCPAC PROGRAM UPDATE IN HONOLULU 15 - 22 MARCH. INDIVIDUALS REQUIRED TO ATTEND THESE CONFERENCES WILL BE PRIMARY POINTS OF CONTACT FOR THE IGA, BUT WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 25 MARCH.

(C) THE MOST LIKELY PATTERN TO THE DRY SEASON WILL SHOW A LULL FOLLOWING THE CURRENT MAXIMUM ENEMY EFFORT, WITH ANOTHER HIGH POINT ENGAGING TOWARD THE MIDDLE OR LATTER PART OF MARCH; THERE MIGHT BE A FURTHER HIGH POINT IN JULY.

5. TAKING THESE FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT I SUGGEST:

(A) THAT IGA AND OASD(C) COMBINE THEIR EFFORTS SO THAT ONLY ONE AGENCY CONDUCTS THE AUDIT;

(B) THAT IF A FULL AUDIT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF MAP CAMBODIA IS DESIRED, IT BE SCHEDULED IN THE LOW-COMBAT MONTHS OF THE FALL;

(C) THAT IF A QUICK (SAY NO MORE THAN TWO-WEEK) INSPECTION OF AMMO MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION IS DESIRED, IT BE SCHEDULED FOR 25 MARCH.

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ENDERS

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